

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1097

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Gabrielle Blake, 2022 recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Gabrielle Blake of Knox County, who was recently named a 2022 recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy was created to honor those who steadfastly work to improve the lives of seniors in the Knoxville community, as the award's namesake did throughout his career; recipients are professionals and community members who have been nominated in recognition of their tireless efforts on behalf of seniors; and

WHEREAS, a licensed clinical social worker with Franklin & Kyle Elder Law since 2010, Ms. Blake is a Certified Dementia Practitioner by the National Council for Certified Dementia Practitioners; and

WHEREAS, she received a bachelor's degree in human services from Tennessee Wesleyan College and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blake began her career in 1997 as a community counselor at Charter Lakeside Psychiatric Hospital in Memphis; after she received her license as a clinical social worker, she served as a group and individual therapist at the Peninsula Senior Day Hospital, a Covenant Health program, where she continues to work on an as-needed basis; and

WHEREAS, an active member of her profession and community, Ms. Blake is the chair of the advisory board of the Senior Home Companion Program for the Knox County Office on Aging; a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth; and president of the Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Society of Healthcare Social Workers; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Blake was named Social Worker of the Year by the Tennessee Society of Healthcare Social Workers in 2016 and Champion of Seniors by the Knoxville-Knox County Office on Aging in 2019; and

WHEREAS, in addition to regularly presenting at workshops and educational events, Ms. Blake volunteers with Girl Scouts, earning the Volunteer of Excellence Award in 2021 for her dedication; she further serves as a volunteer with Alzheimer's Tennessee, the Daily Living Center, and Beacon of Hope; and

WHEREAS, a member of the board of directors of Random Acts of Flowers of Knoxville, she is a member of the Purple Cities Alliance and serves as the chair of the missions team for her Sunday school class at Church Street United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blake has worked tirelessly to serve seniors in her community, and it is most fitting that she be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Gabrielle Blake, 2022 recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy, extending our best wishes for her continued success as she compassionately and devotedly endeavors to serve others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.